



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 12065 NA

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE

REF: KABUL 2296

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FEBRUARY 16 ARTICLE IN NEW YORK  
TIMES:

BEGIN TEXT: LEADERS OF US ANGRY AT SOVIET OVER CRISES ROLE:  
ACCOUNTS ON AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN ARE DISPUTED  
AS PLANS WENT AHEAD FOR EVACUATING AMERICANS FROM IRAN,  
THE UNITED STATES ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION TODAY OF  
EFFORTS TO HELP FOMENT ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIONS IN IRAN  
AND OF HAVING PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE SHOOTOUT THAT  
LED TO THE KILLING OF THE AMERICAN ENVOY AFTER HIS  
ABDUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN YESTERDAY.

SO STRONG WAS THE ANGER BEING VENTED IN THE HIGHEST  
GOVERNMENT LEVELS THAT OFFICIALS SAID RELATIONS WITH  
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MOSCOW COULD BE SEVERELY STRAINED. THEY SAID THIS COULD

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HURT THE CLIMATE FOR CONCLUDING THE NEW ARMS-LIMITATION TREATY.

SPECIFICALLY, WASHINGTON PROTESTED TO MOSCOW OVER BROADCASTS AND ARTICLES SUGGESTING THAT THE AMERICANS WERE EAGER TO INTERVENE MILITARILY IN IRAN.

**US CHARGES SOVIET INSENSITIVITY**

ANOTHER PROTEST SAID THAT, AFTER AMBASSADOR ADOLPH DUBS HAD BEEN ABDUCTED BY AFGHAN DISSIDENTS, SOVIET ADVISERS PAID NO HEED TO AMERICAN REQUESTS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY AND INSTEAD DIRECTED THE POLICE TO ATTACK THE KABUL HOTEL ROOM IN WHICH MR. DUBS WAS BEING HELD. IN THE CROSSFIRE, THE ENVOY WAS KILLED.

THE SOVIET ADVISERS ARE BEING CHARGED WITH HAVING DISPLAYED INSENSITIVITY TO MR. DUBS' FATE AND SHOWED MORE INTEREST IN CRUSHING THE ABDUCTORS THAN IN HIS SAFETY.

(IN MOSCOW, THE PRESS AGENCY TASS, ALLUDING TO THE CHARGES IN THE INCIDENT, SAID "AN ABSURD STORY IS BEING CIRCULATED ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS WHO IN REALITY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.")

IN TEHERAN, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM H. SULLIVAN DECIDED, IN CONSULTATION WITH WASHINGTON, THAT SECURITY OF AMERICANS IN IRAN COULD NO LONGER BE INSURED IN VIEW OF YESTERDAY'S ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY AND THAT IT WAS PRUDENT TO RECOMMEND THAT AMERICANS LEAVE.

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OFFICIALS SAID CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE EVACUATION HAD BEEN MADE AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF PRIME MINISTER SHAHPUR BAKHTIAR'S GOVERNMENT LAST WEEKEND, AND WERE NOW BEING PUT INTO EFFECT BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS OF THE LAST 36 HOURS.

WHILE THE IRANIAN WORKING GROUP, AN INTERAGENCY EMERGENCY STAFF, SOUGHT TO CHARTER PLANES FROM PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS AND SEND MILITARY TRANSPORTS AND HELICOPTERS TO TURKEY, THE ATTENTION OF POLICY-MAKERS WAS RIVETED

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ON WHAT WAS VIEWED AS A POTENTIALLY CRITICAL MOMENT IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE AND ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, THE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WHO ARE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN MEXICO, HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEIR AIDES HERE, AND THE ANGER BEING VENTED AT THE RUSSIANS, EVEN BY MR. VANCE, WHO IS USUALLY LESS AGITATED BY SOVIET ACTIONS, WAS SAID TO BE UNUSUAL.

WITH KEY LEADERS OUT OF WASHINGTON, THE PRESIDENT ASKED VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO RETURN FROM VAIL, COLO., WHERE

HE WAS VACATIONING. MR. MONDALE WAS ASKED "TO KEEP AN EYE ON FAST-BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

PRESIDENT CARTER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN FURIOUS OVER THE REPORTED BEHAVIOR OF SOVIET ADVISERS IN THE EVENTS

IN KABUL THAT LED TO THE KILLING OF AMBASSADOR DUBS.

ON THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN M. CHRISTOPHER, SUMMONED AMBASSADOR ANATOLY F. DOBRYNIN LAST NIGHT TO PROTEST, IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE SHOCK OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OVER THE ROLE PLAYED BY SOVIET ADVISERS."

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ACCORDING TO AN ACCOUNT SENT BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KABUL, SOVIET SECURITY OFFICIALS ATTACHED TO THEIR EMBASSY AND SOVIET ADVISERS ATTACHED TO THE AFGHAN POLICE TOOK CHARGE OF THE PLANNING AND CARRYING OUT OF A DECISION NOT TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER AND TO ATTACK THE UNIDENTIFIED ABDUCTORS WHO WERE HOLDING MR. DUBS IN THE KABUL HOTEL.

ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD ASKED THE AFGHANS AND THE RUSSIANS TO USE PATIENCE AND NOT TO FORCE A SHOWDOWN.

THE RUSSIANS IN THE PAST HAVE OPPOSED NEGOTIATIONS WITH TERRORISTS, AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THIS POLICY WAS EVIDENTLY PUT INTO EFFECT. THE UNITED STATES HAS USUALLY TRIED TO DRAG OUT NEGOTIATIONS IN THE HOPE OF

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